

NSC BRIEFING

9 MAY 1956

BLOC EQUIPMENT FAILURES IN EGYPT

I. Several reports of Egyptian troubles with Bloc Arms:

A. Plane crashes;

C. Tank trouble possibly due defective equipment, but plane crashes attributable to poor Egyptian maintenance.

II. No solid confirmation plane crashed, due Egyptian security, but:

A. (end Feb) 6 MIG-15 crackups by then;

B. Our Cairo NAVA told that 12-13 MIGs crashed by early May.

C. Evidence is that Bloc MIGs were delivered brand-new.

III. Radar bombing gear also troublesome: reportedly Egyptians missing bomb-range by miles.

V. While Egyptians busy trying "biggest" new Bloc equipment, we expect more than usual number accidents, breakdowns: even after assimilation, poor maintenance should result in heavy attrition. We expect Bloc will get blame, regardless true cause.

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